



CALTRANS NEWS RELEASE

Date: Thursday, June 15, 2006 #06-107
District: District 3 - Marysville, www.dot.ca.gov/dist3
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans Designates Portion of State Highway 49 as Official "Safety Corridor"

Grass Valley - The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) will be officially designating a section of State Highway 49 between McKnight Way in Grass Valley and Dry Creek Road in Auburn as an "official safety corridor" Friday, June 16. The announcement will take place at the California Department of Forestry's fire station in Grass Valley, at the intersection of Wolf/Combie Road and Highway 49, at 10 a.m. This designation comes as a result of a dozen fatal vehicle accidents that occurred in 2005 along this 17 mile stretch of the highway.

The Safety Corridor designation earmarks \$500,000 in funding for improvements along this portion of the highway. The improvements will be done this summer and include installation of reflective markers and a centerline median rumble strip, and additional striping and signing. Motorists will also be required to turn on their headlights while driving from McKnight Way to Dry Creek Road.

An official "safety corridor sign" will also be unveiled. Four signs are being installed, each with a "Stay Alert, Arrive Alive" slogan, and a logo designed by Jessica Agnew, a student from Bear River High School, who was the winner of an art contest to solicit artwork from local area students. The contest was used as a way to raise awareness of the need to drive safely along this stretch of the highway and was sponsored by the "Citizens for Highway 49 Safety", a group formed by Bruce and Deborah Jones, both of whom were involved in a near fatal accident within this same corridor in 2003.

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